Pgh. Press 5/16/76

JFK Assassination

Washington Calling

WASHINGTON — Senate Intelligence Commitee's supersecret report on the "Cuban connection" in the murder of President John F. Kennedy becomes hottest potato on Capitol Hill.

"Startling, shocking," said one senator who has seen the report, now locked in a Senate office. "It'll raise a lot of eyebrows," said another lawmaker who spent three hours reading it.

Committee will vote later on whether to make report public, but the key question it raises is: Did Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin, know that the CIA was trying to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro?

Insiders are guarded but suggest report criticizes Warren Commission for not following up on a lead which could have revealed that Oswald, a Castro sympathizer, was in contact with Cuban intelligence agents who knew the CIA was gunning for Castro. Warren Commission knew nothing about CIA plots.

Sources who insist there is a "Cuban connection" point to the CIA efforts to kill Castro; reports that the CIA's Cuban contact, code-named Am Lash, was an insecure, unstable person, may have been a double-agent; Castro's threat in fall of 1963 that U. S. leaders themselves were in danger because of the CIA plots. Oswald gunned down Kennedy 76 days later.

Report will be sent to the Senate's soon-to-be-created permanent committee on intelligence, which will decide if more investigation is warranted.

★ ★ ★